

NOTICE OF FEE CHANGES

Effective January 1, 2006

The Judicial Council of California has announced that new civil fees will go into effect in the state's trial courts effective January 1, 2006. The new fee structure will streamline and simplify civil fees by rolling the current varied surcharges and add-on fees into one filing fee. For the vast majority of court filings and services, the same fees will be charged for the same services across all 58 counties. In San Bernardino County, the first paper filing fees will be slightly higher because of local courthouse construction surcharges.

The changes in the court fees are designed to create statewide consistency in filing fees and to help ensure stable funding, maintaining access and continuing a high level of public service in the California trial courts. The changes were included in the package of trailer legislation that was enacted to implement the 2005 Budget Act.

The new structure, to go into effect on January 1, 2006, will:

- *Streamline and Simplify the Civil Fee Structure.* Various surcharges and add-on fees rolled into one uniform civil filing fee.
- *Creating Uniformity.* For the vast majority of fees, the same fees will be charged for the same services across all 58 counties.
- *Increase Access to the Courts.* The new structure directs additional funding to equal access programs.
- *Offers Predictability.* Court users will know that fees will remain consistent from county to county and will remain unchanged for a minimum of two years.

The San Bernardino Superior Court will begin collecting the new consolidated fees in any affected court matter effective January 1, 2006. Please note that there will be no grace period for this fee schedule.

The new San Bernardino Superior Court fee schedule can be found on the Court's web site at www.sbcounty.gov/courts and is available at the clerk's office in each court location. Information about applicable local fees and answers to specific questions can also be obtained at the clerk's office.